United Nations S/2008/595

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 September 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 5 September 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to two letters addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of August 2008, namely, a letter from the Permanent Representative of Thailand dated 19 August 2008 (S/2008/565) and a letter from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia dated 20 August 2008 (S/2008/569) notifying him of the latest progress in the bilateral process between Thailand and Cambodia, especially the results of the second meeting between the Foreign Minister of Thailand and the Foreign Minister of Cambodia held in Cha-Am, Phetchaburi Province, Thailand, on 18 and 19 August 2008. There was, however, one misleading point in the latter's letter about which a clarification is required, as follows:

1. The results of the second Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cha-Am on 18 and 19 August 2008, as stated in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Thailand (S/2008/565), was the verbatim account of the notes for the press briefing, the text of which was derived from the intensive negotiations and agreed to by the two sides. But the language in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia (S/2008/569) did not reflect such spirit, particularly on the issue of the Ta Muen/Tamone Temples.

2. On the issue of the Ta Muen/Tamone Temples, the jointly agreed outcome of the second Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cha-Am was as follows: "Both sides agreed to consider the issue of the Ta Muen/Tamone Temples at the next Foreign Ministers' meeting". (This agreement was reflected verbatim in point 2.5 of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Thailand referred to above.) But in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia, it was not accurately reflected, but was rewritten as follows: "Both sides agreed to consider the issue of the Cambodian Tamone Temples in the Dangrek range, currently occupied by Thai troops, at the next Foreign Ministers' meeting". Such an act can only run into objection from the other party to the talks. Thailand is no exception to this. Thailand, therefore, finds it inappropriate for any party not to adhere to the agreed outcome.

3. The Ta Muen Temple complex is situated within Thai territory. Should there be any issue that needs to be resolved between the two countries concerning the demarcation of the boundary line, there exists the Thailand-Cambodia Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary, which was jointly established by

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the two countries to look into relevant technical details of the matter in question. According to the second Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cha-Am, both sides agreed to recommend to their respective Governments that the next meeting of the Commission be convened early in October 2008.

4. Thailand is committed to resolving outstanding issues with Cambodia through negotiations within the existing bilateral mechanisms and firmly believes in the sincere friendship that has long existed between the two neighbouring countries and their peoples.

I have the honour to request that the text of the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Chirachai **Punkrasin**
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Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission
of the Kingdom of Thailand to the United Nations